

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 12, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 4, 6 and 7 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 1-3 and 5 are cancelled without prejudice. New claim 10 is added and depends upon claim 7. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and or search. Claims 8 and 9 having been allowed, claims 4 and 6, and 10 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 8 and 9 were allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4, 6 and 7 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 4, 6 and 7 are amended into independent form including any intervening claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 6, and 7 are allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isogawa et al in view of Campagnolo. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation claims 1-3 and 5 as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to claims 4, 6 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, claims 4, 6 and 7 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 4, 6 and 7 is respectfully requested.

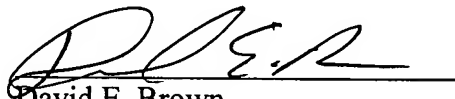
It is respectfully submitted that new claim 10, which depends from claim 7, is allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 7. Support for claim 10 is found at least on page 11, lines 4-11 and Figure 2. Thus, is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable.

As discussed above, it is submitted that each of claims 4 and 6-10 recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 4 and 6-10 be allowed and this application pass to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



David E. Brown
Registration No. 51,091

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DEB:mm

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claim Fee Sheet